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Governor

**Roberta Gassman**  
Secretary



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## **Doyle Administration Awards More Than \$92,000 in Child Care Initiative Grants to Waukesha County and Waukesha County Technical College**

### ***Builds on Governor's Initiative to Make Child Care Tax Deductible***

**Waukesha** – Today, as part of Governor Doyle's *KidsFirst* initiative, Department of Workforce Development Secretary Roberta Gassman awarded more than \$92,000 in Community Child Care Initiative grants. The Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services will receive \$32,132 and Waukesha County Technical College will receive \$60,091 in grant funds.

"The quality of care and learning opportunities that our kids receive at an early age is directly related to their development and ability to do well in school," Secretary Gassman said in announcing the grant. "This investment in our children and families through stronger child care programs will last a lifetime."

Waukesha County's Department of Health and Human Services will use the grant funds to provide on-site child care at the Parents' Place Community Family Center in Waukesha which focuses on the prevention and protection of abused children and provides family support services. Waukesha County will also fund emergency and respite child care at the Women's Center and other county providers.

Waukesha County Technical College will assist group centers, family child care providers, and before-and-after school programs in receiving national accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children or the National Association for Family Child Care. In addition, the technical college will contract with 4-C Community Coordinated Child Care to update the organization's website to include information about the prevention of child abuse and neglect as part of the state's "Strengthening Families" initiative.

In 2006, DWD will award a total of \$2.5 million statewide in Community Child Care Initiative grants to counties, tribes, municipalities, public school districts, and Wisconsin Technical College districts. The grants will be used to improve the quality, supply and accessibility of child care throughout Wisconsin. Recipients must match the grant funds which may be towards a variety of activities to improve child care quality, such as:

- Helping parents make informed choices about selecting child care;
- Educating the general public;
- Increasing opportunities for children with disabilities in child care settings;
- Local collaborative planning to improve early child care and education services;
- Develop a community plan for meeting child care needs related to four-year-old kindergarten for working families; or
- Offering child care for children documented to be receiving or in need of protective services.

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“We are committed to the children and families in our state – from promoting and improving early childhood education, to giving our parents a tax break on paying for child care,” said Secretary Roberta Gassman, Department of Workforce Development.

Governor Doyle has proposed a new tax deduction that will allow parents to deduct up to \$3,000 for child care expenses for one child, and up to \$6,000 for two or more children. This new tax benefit will save nearly \$400 for a family with two children in child care. According to the National Association of Child Care Research and Referrals Agency, there are 253,335 children in Wisconsin under the age of six that have either both parents working or are from a single parent household where the parent works.

For more information regarding DWD’s child care programs, see DWD’s website at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dws/programs/childcare/grants/default.htm> and DWD’s home page at <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov>.

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